

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claim Listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for calculating a subscriber's account credit in a telecommunications system where at least two different types of vouchers having the same type of a value can be used for making deposits in the account, which-wherein said vouchers may be bought, the types of the vouchers differing from each other at least so that a certain amount of a calling time has different prices in different types of the vouchers; the method comprising:

defining at least two different ways of updating the credit, the different ways of updating differing from each other at least in the way the credit is calculated such that if the same value is used in updating, a first way to update will give a first amount of updated credit and a second way to update will give a second amount of updated credit, the second amount being different than the first amount;

maintaining information, separate from credit information, indicating the type of a last used voucher of the subscriber;

receiving a deposit identifying a new voucher which the subscriber is going to use to update his/her credit;

determining the type of the new voucher;

determining the type of the last used voucher of the subscriber;

comparing the type of the new voucher with the type of the last used voucher of the subscriber; and

selecting the way of calculating the credit on the basis of the type of the last used voucher and on the basis of the type of the new voucher a comparison result from said comparing.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~ehecking whether the last used voucher and the new voucher are of the same type; and~~

calculating the credit by adding the value of the new voucher to the credit, if said vouchers are of the same type; or

calculating the credit by setting the credit to be the value of the new voucher, if said vouchers are of a different type.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~ehecking whether the last used voucher and the new voucher are of the same type; and~~

calculating the credit by adding the value of the new voucher to the credit, if said vouchers are of the same type; or

determining a factor, multiplying the credit with the factor and adding the result of said multiplication to the value of the new voucher, and setting the credit to be the result of said addition, if said vouchers are of a different type.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said factor is determined on the basis of the types of the last used voucher and the new voucher.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

asking the subscriber for a permission to update the credit, if the vouchers are of a different type; and

updating the credit only if the permission is received from the subscriber.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the types of the vouchers are determined on the basis of their identification numbers.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunications system is a mobile telecommunications system.

8. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for updating a subscriber's account credit in a telecommunications system where the subscriber can pre-pay for the subscriber's calls by making deposits in the subscriber's account using at least two different types of vouchers having the same type of a value, which wherein said vouchers may be bought, the types of the vouchers differing from each other at least so that a certain amount of a calling time has different prices in different types of the vouchers, and wherein the system applies a first method to update the credit, the arrangement being arranged to

detect a change of voucher type determine when the credit is updated if the type of a last used voucher of the subscriber and the type of a new voucher which the subscriber is going to use to update his/her said account credit are not of the same type; and;

compare the type of the last used voucher with the type of the new voucher;

detect a change of voucher if the last used voucher and the new voucher are not of the same type; and

in response to said detection, to apply a second method to update the credit, the second method differing from the first method at least in the way the credit is calculated such that if the same value is used in updating, the second method will give a different amount of updated credit than the first method.

9. (Original) The arrangement of claim 8, wherein the arrangement is further arranged, in response to said detection, to ask the subscriber for a permission to update the credit and to update the credit only in response to the permission.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The arrangement of claim 9, wherein the arrangement comprises an Intelligent Peripheral of an Intelligent Network, said Intelligent Peripheral comprising an Interactive Voice Response service through which the credits are updated.

12. (Currently Amended) A network element in a telecommunications system where a subscriber of the system can pre-pay for the subscriber's calls by making deposits in the

subscriber's account using at least two different types of vouchers having the same type of a value, which wherein said vouchers may be bought, the types differing from each other at least so that a certain amount of a calling time has different prices in different types of the vouchers, which wherein said element includes a database memory or can be arranged to have access to a database memory, where account credit is maintained, and where information indicating, subscriber-specifically, a type of a voucher last used by the subscriber is maintained, the network element comprising:

a first mechanism to determine the type of a voucher last used by the subscriber,

a second mechanism to determine the type of the new voucher which the subscriber is going to use to update the subscriber's credit, and

a third mechanism to compare the type of the voucher last used by the subscriber with the type of the new voucher, and to select a method of updating the credit among at least two different updating methods on the basis of the types of said vouchers a comparison result, the different updating methods differing from each other at least in the way the credit is calculated such that if the same value is used in updating, a first way to update will give a first amount of updated credit and a second way to update will give a second amount of updated credit, the second amount being different than the first amount.

13. (Original) The network element of claim 12, wherein the third mechanism is further arranged to ask the subscriber for a permission to update the credit according to the voucher type concerned in response to said vouchers being of a different type, and to update the credit only in response to a permission received from the subscriber.

14. (Original) The network element of claim 12, wherein in response to the different voucher types, the third mechanism is further arranged to determine a factor, to multiply the subscriber's current credit with said factor, to add the result of said multiplication to the value of the second voucher, and to set the credit to be the result of said addition.

15. (New) An arrangement for updating subscriber credits in a telecommunications system, the arrangement comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to the processor, said memory comprising a data structure in which a subscriber's account information is stored, said account information comprising information relating to pre-paid vouchers which have been deposited in and credited to the subscriber's account,

said pre-paid vouchers comprising at least two different types of vouchers having a same type of value, wherein said at least two different types of vouchers may be purchased by the subscriber, wherein the at least two different types of vouchers differ from each other at least in that a given amount of a calling time is priced differently for each of the at least two different types of vouchers,

wherein said processor is configured:

to apply a first type of credit update to the subscriber's account;

to determine, after the subscriber's account credit is updated, a type of a last used voucher, and a type of a new voucher which the subscriber is going to use to update said account credit;

to compare the type of the last used voucher with the type of the new voucher;

to detect a change of a voucher type if the last used voucher and the new voucher are not of the same type; and

in response to said detection, to apply a second type of credit update to the subscriber's account, the second type of credit update differing from the first type of credit update at least with respect to a way in which the credit is calculated,

wherein, if a same value is used in updating, the second type of credit update results in a different amount of updated credit than the first type of credit update.

16. (New) A network element suitable for updating a system subscriber's account in a telecommunications system, the network element comprising:

access to a memory in which information relating to the system subscriber's account credit and type of a voucher last used by a subscriber is maintained by specific subscribers, wherein said information relating to the type of voucher last used is maintained separate from credit information;

a first mechanism that determines a type of a last-used voucher;

a second mechanism that determines a new voucher type that the subscriber is going to use to update the subscriber's credit account; and

a third mechanism that compares the type of the last-used voucher with the new voucher type and selects a type of credit update that updates the subscriber's credit account, said type of credit update being selected from at least two different credit updating methods in response to a comparison result,

the at least two different credit updating methods differing from each other at least in a way the credit is calculated,

wherein, if a same value is used in updating, a first way to update provides a first amount of updated credit, and a second way to update results in a second amount of updated credit, the second amount being different than the first amount,

wherein the system subscriber pre-pays for calls made by the subscriber by making deposits in the subscriber's account using the at least two different types of vouchers having a same type of a value,

wherein said at least two different types of vouchers are purchased, the at least two different types differing from each other at least in that a certain amount of a calling time has different prices in different types of the vouchers.